



June 2014

# KCVA Veteran *focus*

## KCVA Events

### Catholic Mass

Wednesdays

12pm - 12:30pm

Chapel

### Patient Orientation

6/25-14 - 9:30 - 11:30

KCVA Hall of Heroes

Call to register.

816-861-4700 x57927

### Farmer's Market

Every Thursday

7am - 1pm

Front of Medical Center



## KCVA Veteran Artists Receive International Attention

*- Stana Eager, KCVA Social Worker*

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, three Veteran artists who receive mental health services at KCVA - Jose Santa Cruz, Walter Thomas, and Amie Wolfgeher - presented their art and talked about how it has helped in their healing and recovery with eight participants of the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP). IVLP is sponsored by the State Department. The program brings individuals from around the world to the United States. They travel to different cities and meet with organizations to learn about a particular topic. The topic for this IVLP group was "Social Change through the Arts." The IVLP visitors represented the countries of Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan, Latvia, Poland and Saudi Arabia. They are all prominent in the art, film, theatre and music ministries/commissions in their respective countries.

The International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City hosted the visitors. They contacted KCVA to arrange a meeting after reading on the KCVA website about "Recovery through Art", an art fair which took place in November 2013. During the meeting, the IVLP visitors were visibly moved by the stories and art shared by

the three Veteran artists. In a follow-up to the meeting, the Executive Director of the International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City stated that, "our visitors greatly benefitted from learning about the impact that creating art has on the lives of these Veterans" and that interacting with the Veterans "is an experience they will not soon forget."



## Kansas City VA Medical Center

### Average Wait-Time for Scheduled Appointments

Specialty Care **10.4** Days

\*VA National Average

Wait-Time = 21 Days

\*Private Sector National Average

Wait-Time = 18.5 Days

### Average Wait-Time for New Patient Appointments

Mental Health **5** Days

\*VA National Average

Wait-Time = 15 Days

\*Private Sector National Average

Wait-Time = 18.5 Days

Primary Care **21** Days

\*VA National Average

Wait-Time = 25 Days

\*Private Sector National Average

Wait-Time = 18.5 Days

Specialty Care **19** Days

\*VA National Average

Wait-Time = 25 Days

\*Private Sector National Average

Wait-Time = 18.5 Days

Source for Private Sector Wait Times <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/va-scandal-wait-times-health-care>

## New Veteran Health Identification Cards (VHIC)

are now being sent out. If you already have the old VHIC, VA will automatically mail you a replacement card. Just make sure we have your current address!

If you are already enrolled but don't have a card, visit our Registration Department in the Valor Building or call 816-861-4700 ext.52498



## Did You Know?

**Most Veterans no longer have to complete the annual financial update.**

As of March 24, 2014, most Veterans are no longer required to complete the annual financial assessment known as a Means Test. Instead, VA will receive income information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), and will contact the Veterans only if the information received indicates a change in their VA health benefits may be appropriate.

The elimination of the annual means test frees enrolled Veterans to enjoy their VA health care benefits without worrying about completing annual income assessment forms. Under the new process, Veterans will be required to have one financial assessment on file – their current file if they're already enrolled, or the assessment they provide when they apply. That assessment will be maintained and monitored by VA and updated only as substantial income changes occur.




*Read more at*

[http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/cost/financial\\_assessment.asp](http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/cost/financial_assessment.asp)

**Kansas City VA Medical Center**  
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Kansas City, MO 64128

816-861-4700

[www.kansascity.va.gov](http://www.kansascity.va.gov)

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 [Twitter.com/vakansascity](https://twitter.com/vakansascity)  
 [Myhealth.va.gov](http://myhealth.va.gov)

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1